

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Executive Registry
8-2423

SECRET

9 May 1956

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles,
Director of Central Intelligence,
2430 E Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

5/11/56

Dear Mr. Dulles:

A "Situation Room" is to be established in the White House for the purpose of keeping the President and his staff informed of the situation under conditions of "Strategic Warning" or at any time that the Armed Forces of the United States or the United Nations are engaged. During other times the situation room would be maintained in a readiness condition. It is not intended to replace any existing agency, nor undertake operational interference therewith in any manner, but it would receive intelligence digests, briefings, etc., and maintain status maps as necessary for the President's information. It is hoped that such a facility can be made as useful to the various agencies and departments concerned as it will be to the White House.

It is requested that the Central Intelligence Agency furnish the following:

1. Assistance in designing the situation room.
2. The intelligence data necessary to meet the commitments stated above.

A similar request for operational components required is being submitted to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Present plans contemplate that necessary equipment will be installed prior to July, in order that the situation room may be in operation during Operation Alert 1956.

Sincerely yours,


EDWARD L. BEACH,

Commander, U. S. Navy,
Naval Aide to the President.

SECRET

16 MAY 1956

Commander Edward L. Beach
Naval Aide to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Commander Beach:

Reference is made to your letter of 9 May 1956 in which you request that the Central Intelligence Agency furnish assistance in designing a Situation Room in the White House and provide intelligence data to the Room when established.

We will be glad to provide whatever assistance we can in order to have the Situation Room in operation by Operation Alert 1956.

Sincerely yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

ODDI: []:jb
(15 May 1956)

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee
2 - DCI
2 - DDI
1 - AD/CI

CONCUR:

[]

DEPUTY DIR. FOR INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

9-7884

7 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Establishment of a Situation Room
in the White House

1. The White House has requested that you (a) assist in the planning and establishment of a situation room in the White House, and (b) provide the necessary intelligence and intelligence information to the White House for the situation room, to be maintained on a current basis.

2. In view of the fact that compliance with 1.(b) above will necessarily involve furnishing, both immediately and on a continuing basis, Order of Battle data, it is recommended that at the IAC Meeting of May 8th you inform the Meeting of the establishment of a situation room in the White House and request the respective services to furnish such OB as may be required directly to the White House concurrently furnishing the Agency with a copy of the data given to the White House. As a matter of procedure, I would suggest that the data for the White House be addressed attention of Commander Beach and that the copy of the data be addressed for the Agency attention of the Assistant Director for Current Intelligence.

[Redacted Signature]

25X1

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Acting Deputy Director/Intelligence

NEGATIVE REGISTRY FILE *White House - LTR*

SECRET

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**SECRET**

24 April 1956

Lieutenant General Charles P. Cabell, USAF,
Chairman, Watch Committee,
Central Intelligence Agency,
2430 "E" Street, N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Cabell:

It is desired to establish a "Situation Room" in the White House for the purpose of keeping the President and his staff informed of the situation under conditions of "Strategic Warning" or at any time that the Armed Forces of the United States or the United Nations are engaged. During other times the situation room would be maintained in a readiness condition. It is not intended to replace any existing agency, nor undertake operational interference therewith in any manner, but it would receive intelligence digests, briefings, etc., and maintain status maps as necessary for the President's information. It is hoped that such a facility can be made as useful to the various agencies and departments concerned as it will be to the White House.

It is understood that a [] of your organization has had experience in setting up such a situation room. Consultation with Mr. [] or one of his assistants is requested in order to advise this office as to the physical layout of the Situation Room, the communication requirements and the practicable scope of the project.

25X1

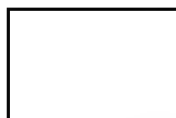
Present plans contemplate that necessary equipment will be installed prior to July, in order that the Situation Room may be in operation during Operation Alert 1956.

Sincerely yours,


EDWARD L. BEACH,Commander, U. S. Navy,
Naval Aide to the President.**SECRET**

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

After you have noted I will send this to
DD/I for action.



10 May 1956
(DATE)

FORM NO 101 REPLACES FORM 10-01
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

25X1

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
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1	Mr. [redacted] (Rm BC-956 Pentagon)		
2	Mr. Sheldon		
3			
4			
5			
6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION
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<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
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FORM NO. 237
1 APR 55

Replaces Form 30-4 which may be used.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1955 - O-342531 (40)

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Remarks:
*Phyl prepare reply for DES
Lig - Accepting the responsibility.*

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ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
229 Admin Bldg.	12 May 56